The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial/interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1913.

They who plow the sea do not carry the winds in their hands.
—Publilius Syrus.

WHOLE NO. 1326 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1936 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 26, NO. 37

A. F. of L. Council Does Not Ban Industrial Unions, Morrison Says

Secretary-Treasurer of American Federation of Labor Cites Federation's Constitution As Final Authority on Jurisdiction—Declares 29 Union Mergers Have Already Taken Place.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

A positive denial of the charge that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor blocks the organization of the workers in industrial unions was made by Frank Morrison, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, in his Labor Day speech at Lancaster, Pa., under the auspices of the Lancaster Central Labor Union.

Declaring that the flexibility of the trade union movement is able to meet all phases of the workers' needs developed by our modern industrial system, Mr. Morrison said:

"In the differences that exist between the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor and the organizations comprising the Committee for Industrial Organization, it has been charged by representatives of that Committee that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor is standing in the way of workers organizing in industrial unions.

Constitution Defines Jurisdiction Rule

"Their statements imply that the Executive Council has the power to recommend or require affiliated internations unions to relinquish their jurisdiction in certain industries in order that the workers in these industries may organize in one union. The Executive Council has no such power. This fact is made clear by the following provision of the American Federation of Labor constitution:

"'Article IX, Sec. 11.—No charter shall be granted by the American Federation of Labor to any national, international, trade, or federal labor union without a positive and clear definition of the trade jurisdiction claimed by the applicant, and the charter shall not be granted if the jurisdiction claimed is a tresspass on the jurisdiction of existing affiliated unions, without the written consent of such unions.'

"How many affiliated national and international unions are willing to surrender to an outside body the right to determine organizational policies applying to jurisdiction which is now under their own sole control? The American Federation of Labor cannot interfere with organizational policies of affiliated national or international unions except where policies trespass upon the rights of other organizations and the aggrieved organizations appeal to the Executive Council for relief.

"Upon the request of either or all of the organizations involved the Executive Council endeavors to bring about conferences of the executives of these organizations for the purpose of reaching an adjustment. In many instances, the mediation of the Executive Council paves the way to a settlement of the differences. In some cases disputes growing out of jurisdiction questions have extended over a period of years.

A. F. of L. Industrial Union Policy

"The policy of the American Federation of Labor with reference to industrial unionism is indicated in the following action upon a resolution considered in the Rochester (1912) convention:

"'Resolved, By the thirty-second annual convention of the American Federation of Labor, that the Executive Council of this Federation be instructed to arrange conferences between the representatives of the various international unions where there is more than one international membership employed in any given industry, and that every effort by the Executive Council be extended to bring about a federation of such unions to the end that joint action may be assured in all disputes between organized labor and the employing classes.'

"The Committee on Adjustment, to which the resolution was referred, reported as follows: 'Your committee reports that the principle contained in this resolution is covered by Section 2 of the autonomy declaration of the Scranton convention. We, therefore, recommend that the resolution be referred to the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, with instructions to do whatever it properly can to establish cooperation among the organizations of kindred trades.'

Twenty-nine Mergers Recorded

"The process of the merger of branches of trades into one organization has been going on throughout the years of the existence of the American Federation of Labor. We find in the records of the American Federation of of Labor that twenty-nine mergers and consolidations have taken place. The list includes the following:

"The Allied Metal Mechanics' International Union became part of the International Association of Machinists, and the Machinists Helpers' Unions have become part thereof.

"The Amalgamated Wood Workers' International Union amalgamated with and became a part of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, and the American Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters had its charter revoked because it refused to amalgamate with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

"By a decision of the convention and upon terms mutually agreed upon by the two organizations, the Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters' Helpers were amalgamated with the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters.

"The International Molders' Union of North America encompasses molders of all metals, and some years ago the Coremakers' International Union became amalgamated with it.

"The Longshoremen's Association includes pilots and steam shovelmen in addition to their own workers, longshoremen.

"The Blacksmiths' International Brotherhood includes chain makers, drop forgers and helpers.

"The Lasters' International Union amalgamated with the Boot and Shoe Workers' International Union.

"The United Mine Workers has jurisdiction over all work in and around the mines.

"The Granite Cutters' International Association includes polishers, rubbers, sawyers, and the tool sharpeners have been part thereof from the beginning.

"Quarry Workers added derrickmen, boxing and strapping to their organization.

"Railroad Telegraphers added station agents, signalmen, train dispatchers, telephoners, pneumatic interlockers, and staffmen.

"Some years ago a movement was on foot to bring about the amalgamation of the Journeymen Tailors' International Union, the United Garment Workers of North America and the Ladies' Garment Workers' International Union. The memberships of these respective organizations did not agree upon such a merger and under their autonomous right they were permitted to decide for themselves the policy they felt was best suited to their requirements.

"Window Glass Cutters and Flatteners' Association amalgamated with the Window Glass Cutters' League of America.

"Tunnel and Subway Constructors' International Union amalgamated with the Hod Carriers' International Union.

"United Hatters and the Cloth Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers merged into one international union.

Some Unions Prefer Separate Organization

"It is also true that in some few organizations the amalgamation of various branches of one industry having been accomplished, they have voluntarily separated into a number of international unions of their respective branches. That is especially true of the International Typographical Union, which until some years ago had under its jurisdiction and part of the organization, the compositors, proof readers, pressmen, bookbinders, stereotypers and electrotypers, mailers, news writers, photo-engravers. By agreement, the pressmen, bookbinders, stereotypers and electrotypers, and photo-engravers, have formed separate organizations from the membership of the International Typographical Union, and secured certificates of affiliation from the American Federation of Labor, generally cooperating in their local and national councils.

"Where its services were called upon by the organizations in interest the American Federation of Labor, through its officers, assisted in the deliberations and negotiations that brought these mergers about.

"None would be more astonished than the officers of the organizations associated with the Committee for Industrial Organization if the Executive Council adopted a decision calling upon the organizations in allied industries to surrender their jurisdiction to one organization. The members of the needle trades organizations, such as the Ladies' Garment Workers' International Union and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, make products out of materials manufactured by members of the United Textile Workers.

"If the members of these three international organizations decide to amalgamate, they certainly have the complete right to do so. Under the principles upon which the American Federation of Labor operates, any recommendation or move along this line should be initiated by the members of these organizations and not from any source outside of their own ranks."

Colorado Beet Field and Agricultural Workers Establish State Conference

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Representatives of eight unions of beet field and agricultural workers of Colorado have formed a permanent conference and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and the Colorado State Federation of Labor, according to an article in the Colorado Labor Advocate.

The meeting to establish the conference, held in Greely, Colo., was called by officials of the Colorado State Federation of Labor. Secretary John E. Gross acted as temporary chairman and Vice President Graham of the Federation, one of the principal organizers of beet field unions, served as temporary secretary. Mr. Gross read a letter from William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, authorizing the formation of the conference.

The preamble of the constitution and by-laws adopted by the conference states: "The objects of this organization are to unite all agricultural workers' local unions into a state organization; to establish better living and housing conditions, better wages and hours; to establish safe and sanitary living and working conditions; to establish an educational program among our workers; to add our strength to the upbuilding of the working people of this country."

The constitution sets forth that the conference "shall be statewide in scope, and, as an organization, shall not be committed to or favor any particular religious creed; neither shall affiliation herewith interfere with religious or political freedom of individual members."

The following officers were elected for a one-year term to begin in October: Paul J. Arias, Fort Lupton, president; V. G. Vigil, Fort Collins, secretary-treasurer, and three vice presidents, A. E. Crandall, Fort Morgan; Ramon Negrete, Fort Lupton, and Ernesto Miranda, Fort Collins.

Organization of Colorado beet field workers into unions by officers of the Colorado State Federation of Labor has been in progress during the past year. The Greely conference of beet field locals was the second conference held since March.

The conference negotiating committee named at the March session and headed by Ramon Negrete of Fort Lupton reported that many beet growers had signed and were observing the $20 union contract program. The executive officers of the conference were instructed to name another negotiating committee to draw up wage scales for agricultural products for the 1937 sugar beet crops and submit the proposed contract to a referendum vote of the members.

Green Makes Ruling In Seattle P.-I. Case

Holds Central Labor Council Acted in Accordance with A. F. of L. Laws in Placing Newspaper on Unfair List.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, made the following statement regarding the investigation of the Seattle newspaper strike:

"Following the submission of complaints by officers of the printing trades organizations against the action of the Seattle Central Body in placing the Post-Intelligencer in Seattle upon the Unfair List, I directed the representative of the American Federation of Labor in Seattle, Washington, Mr. Rowland Watson, to make an investigation and submit a report. This investigation was made and the report submitted.

"The report states that the investigation of Representative Watson showed that the Seattle Central Labor Council acted in accordance with the laws, rules and procedure of the American Federation of Labor when it placed the Seattle Post-Intelligencer upon the Unfair List. Efforts to conduct a hearing upon the complaint filed by the American Newspaper Guild and to promote a settlement were made by the officers of the Seattle Central Body before formal action was taken placing the Seattle Post-Intelligencer upon the Unfair List. The laws of the American Federation of Labor require that Central Bodies take such action and follow such a course before placing any firm upon the Unfair List.

A. F. of L. Cannot Interfere

"In view of the fact that the Seattle Central Body conformed to the laws of the American Federation of Labor and acted in accordance with the rights conferred upon it by the American Federation of Labor and followed legal and orderly procedure the American Federation of Labor cannot interfere. I have directed Representative Watson, however, to serve in every possible way in trying to bring about a settlement of the dispute existing between the management of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and the members of the local Newspaper Guild so that industrial peace may be reestablished in the city of Seattle."

Watson's Report

The report by Rowland Watson was included in Mr. Green's statement.

Mr. Watson found that two members of the American Newspaper Guild "employed for many years by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer were discharged for their union activities," and that after appealing, without avail, through representatives of the State Federation of Labor, the Seattle Central Labor Council and the regional office of the National Labor Relations Board for re-instatement of the men the Guild placed the Post-Intelligencer on the unfair list and requested the Central Labor Council to do likewise.

After a hearing, at which representatives of the Post-Intelligencer refused to appear, the executive board of the Council recommended that the paper be placed on the unfair list. The council adopted the recommendation by a vote of about 250 to three.

Paper Suspends Publication

"Picket lines," Mr. Watson said, "were formed around the Seattle Post-Intelligencer the following morning with the result that all workmen, members of unions, refused to go through the picket lines and the publication of the Post-Intelligencer was suspended."

As to alleged violence, Mr. Watson said a little of it broke out when a "guard" with a criminal record, discharged by the Post-Intelligencer, left the building. Trouble started when the guard reached the picket line, resulting in injuries to six or seven persons.

In summing up his attempts to adjust the dispute Mr. Watson said that H. J. Kelly, general counsel of labor relations for the Hearst Newspaper Publishing Company, submitted a proposal consisting of the following statements:

Recognition of Guild Banned

"The American Newspaper Guild, Seattle Chapter, would not be recognized in any form whatsoever, even in the least remote form. Strikers, meaning members of the Guild, must make a complete and unconditional surrender. Strikers to make application for employment to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer as individuals. Mr. Kelly to use his influence with the local manager of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer to have the strikers reemployed who had not made themselves obnoxious to the manager and other employes of the Post-Intelligencer by radio-broadcasting statements, printed articles or otherwise."

Untrue Statements Charged

Mr. Watson added "that under the conditions specified in the proposal it would be useless for me to continue negotiating with representatives of the Post-Intelligencer for a settlement," but said he was keeping in contact with the Allied Printing Trades and the Newspaper Guild to assist them in their trouble.

"The whole labor movement in the Northwest," he said, "is very much disturbed and wrought up over accusations that have been made by the Seattle Post-Intelligencer and its supporters concerning us in general and the unwarranted attacks and untrue statements made against Dave Beck, one of our very active and able international representatives in the Northwest."

Roosevelt Emphasizes Importance Of Job Security and Good Wages

He Says Employment and Pay Envelope Contents Have Steadily Increased for Three Years, But Insists That Industry Must Be Adjusted to Provide Jobs and Decent Living Standards For All Workers.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The progress made since 1933 in the economic conditions of the American people was stressed by President Roosevelt in his Labor Day Message "to the workers of the United States."

Although definite forward steps in recovery have been made through government assistance to widely separated groups, the President asserted that our aim must be the complete abolition of unemployment and the guarantee of decent wages to all working men and women.

Following is the text of President Roosevelt's Labor Day Message:

I send hearty Labor Day greetings to America's workers everywhere. I feel that there is cause for rejoicing among wage earners as labor's annual day approaches. Labor Day is a day on which it is natural for us to take account of stock to see where we stand with respect to those vital problems which affect so profoundly the lives and destinies of the nation's workers. We have made progress. We must continue to move forward.

Employment and weekly pay envelopes have increased steadily during the past three years, stimulated by the spending of the Federal Government in useful ways. This increased buying power of wage earners and farmers has resulted in increased sales by merchants, more orders for factories, and rising profits for investors.

We have witnessed significant changes during the past few years, changes which necessitate special reconsideration of basic problems with a view to finding a new approach to their solution. Our aim must be to achieve and maintain a national economy whose factors are so finely balanced that the worker is always sure of a job which will guarantee a living wage. By a living wage I mean a wage which will insure the worker and the worker's dependents a living in accordance with American standards of decency, happiness and self-respect. The wage earners of America do not ask for more. They will not be satisfied with less.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

Industrial Organization Committee Unions Withdraw From the A. F. of L.

Status in City Central Bodies and State Federations of Labor of Local Unions Chartered by C. I. O. Organizations Remains Unchanged for the Present, Says Green—American Federation of Labor "Will Carry On Aggressive Organization Work In All Fields and Among Those Employed in All Industries."

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—On September 5, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, made the following statement in regard to the organizations represented in the Committee for Industrial Organization:

"On August 5 the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor called upon the organizations holding membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization to make their choice within 30 days as to whether they would withdraw from affiliation with the American Federation of Labor or discontinue their membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization.

Classified As Dual Organization

"These organizations which make up the Committee for Industrial Organization have made their decisions. Their representatives have chosen to continue membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization and to withdraw their affiliated relationship with the American Federation of Labor. They have exercised their freedom of choice. The American Federation of Labor accepts it as a determination on the part of the organizations involved to leave the American Federation of Labor and to maintain the Committee for Industrial Organization. This organization was classified by the Executive Council as a dual organization functioning as a rival to the American Federation of Labor.

"In view of the choice made by the organizations holding membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization the charge which has been repeatedly made that the Executive Council lacked authority to take action against these organizations falls flat. Instead of suspending these organizations through formal action the Executive Council accorded them an opportunity to make their own decision. This is in accordance with the voluntary principles and policies which have been applied and followed by the American Federation of Labor.

Rival Movement to A. F. of L.

"The plan of those who originated and established the Committee for Industrial Organization has unfolded during the past 10 months since the adjournment of the Atlantic City convention. Apparently the developments which have taken place have been in accord with policies which were formulated and adopted when the Committee for Industrial Organization was conceived and formed. Undoubtedly, the next step will be to officially and formally admit the existence of this new organization and to proclaim it as a definite rival movement to the American Federation of Labor. It is generally expected by the representatives of the American Federation of Labor that these further plans of those who were the originators and organizers of the Committee for Industrial Organization will unfold and in due course of time become publicly known.

Executive Council Seeks Unity

"Notwithstanding the failure of all the efforts which have been put forth to compose the differences which have arisen and to heal the breach which was created by action of the Committee for Industrial Organization the officers and members of the Executive Council earnestly hope that an understanding will be utimately reached, differences adjusted and unity restored. In its efforts to accomplish this purpose the Executive Council asks nothing more than the dissolution of the Committee for Industrial Organization. The unions holding membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization can return and assume their former status as affiliated unions with the American Federation of Labor when they withdraw from affiliation with the Committee for Industrial Organization.

Status of Local Unions

"In the meantime no action will be taken by the Council against local unions chartered by organizations holding membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization which are affiliated with city central bodies and state federations of labor. These organizations will be advised to maintain the status quo until further notice. When it seems necessary and advisable the Executive Council will formulate and apply a policy dealing with the relationship of affiliated unions with city central bodies and state federations of labor.

Will Organize Workers in All Industries

"The withdrawal of the organizations holding membership in the Committee for Industrial Organization from affiliation with the American Federation of Labor will in no way affect its organization and administrative policies. Through the 102 international organizations affiliated with it the American Federation of Labor will carry on aggressive organizing work in all fields and among those employed in all industries."

WPA RULES ON SWEATSHOP PAY FOR COTTON PICKERS

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The proposal of Southern chambers of commerce to have Federal work relief projects in cotton states suspended in order to compel those employed on these projects to go to the fields and harvest the cotton crop at planter-fixed wages ranging from $1 to $1.25 per 100 pounds of cotton picked did not meet with enthusiastic approval by WPA officials here.

The Works Progress Administration ruled that although the needy must accept available private jobs, they need not do so "unless they are qualified to do the work and when such work is at a standard or going rate of wages."

Acting Administrator Corrington Gill declared that "the Works Progress Administration is not an employment exchange nor a placement service, nor will it be a party to arbitrarily forcing workers to accept substandard wages."

His ruling was made following the request of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce and other business organizations in the South that WPA projects be dropped to provide the plantation owners with cotton pickers.

In regard to the announcement by Wayne Alliston, Mississippi WPA Administrator, that all projects in the Mississippi delta were being suspended to relieve the alleged shortage in cotton pickers, WPA officials said he had not been authorized to drop workers not suited to such a task.

GRANITE CUTTERS PLAN MONUMENT IN HONOR OF LATE PRESIDENT SQUIBB

Quincy, Mass. (AFLNS).—Sam Squibb, who served capably as president of the Granite Cutters' International Association of America for many years prior to his recent death, is to have a monument to perpetuate his memory in the hearts of the workers whom he served so faithfully.

An assessment of $1 is being collected under direction of the International Executive Council, to provide funds for a suitable memorial. Apprentices and members who are unemployed at the trade will not be required to pay the assessment.

When the fund is complete, a suitable monument will be selected and, upon its completion, formally dedicated to the man who long headed the craft that has cut many a monument for others, as well as the granite for many of the world's finest buildings, the late Sam Squibb.

Democratic Procedure and Majority Rule Must Be Preserved, Says Green

Industrial versus Craft Unionism Is Not the Issue Which Led the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor To Demand the Dissolution of the Committee for Industrial Organization, He Declares.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

A strong defense of the principle of democratic procedure and majority rule in the government of the American Federation of Labor was made by William Green, president of the A. F. of L., in his Labor Day address at Knoxville, Tenn., under the auspices of the Knoxville Central Labor Union.

On the necessity of a united labor movement to work wholeheartedly for the benefit of working men and women, Mr. Green said:

"It is a matter of deep regret that labor throughout the nation while celebrating its national holiday is forced to consider the breach which has been created through the formation of another organization classified by the Executive Council as dual and rival to the American Federation of Labor.

"Those who have ever sought to divide and conquer the forces of labor will be pleased while those who have ever devoted their efforts toward the development of solidarity and a united labor movement will be moved with feelings of deep concern. The enemies of labor will be the only beneficiaries of division, discord and bitterness within the family of organized labor. The workers who are seeking the realization of a more abundant life through the mobilization of their economic strength are bound to suffer.

"Why should this breach be created at this time? There is no issue in the American Federation of Labor which transcends the issue of unity and solidarity. The pioneers in our movement emphasized the importance of united action and united strength. Every issue arising out of differing points of view regarding organization and administrative policies within the American Federation of Labor ought to be subordinated in the interests of the common welfare. That common welfare is reflected in the preservation of a united, organized labor movement.

Convention Decisions Must Be Obeyed

"When issues are joined and controversial questions are settled by a majority vote of the representatives of labor who participate in conventions of the American Federation of Labor it becomes the duty and obligation of all organizations and individuals who are affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to respect and obey said decisions.

"This is democratic procedure and majority rule. It is the traditional policy of democratic organizations and particularly of the American Federation of Labor to settle questions within the councils of the organization by a majority vote and when questions are thus settled to yield and submit to majority rule.

"This is the issue involved in the present controversy. We cannot maintain orderly procedure or guarantee justice to our members if we fail to observe this rule and to apply it in the settlement of all controversial questions.

"No minority, regardless of its strength, power and standing, possesses the right to attempt to set aside majority decisions or to enforce its will upon the majority.

Industrial vs. Craft Unions

"It is this principle of democratic procedure and majority rule that the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor is protecting and preserving. The industrial versus craft controversy is not the issue. Both forms of organization have been applied by the American Federation of Labor and are being applied in its organization and administative policies as circumstances warrant and conditions permit.

"Great patience has been exercised by the Executive Council during the 10 months period since the adjournment of the last convention of the American Federation of Labor in all the efforts it has put forth to heal the breach, to compose differences and to bring about a dissolution of the dual organization originally established within the American Federation of Labor.

"Those who participated in the formation of the dual organization were warned against it and the evil consequences of division, bitterness and discord which were bound to follow its formation. It was the first time in the history of the more than 50 years existence of the American Federation of Labor that such an organization was formed and it represents the first attempt of a minority group within the American Federation of Labor to impose its will upon the majority.

Dissolution of Dual Organization Sought

"Notwithstanding all the disappointments which have come and the definite refusal of those who hold membership in this rival organization to discontinue it, it is the purpose of the officers of the American Federation of Labor to seek, patiently and continuously, a settlement of the controversy which has arisen.

"The Executive Council asks only that the rival organization which has been set up be dissolved and those who are members of it return to affiliation with the parent organization and assume the same attitude toward it as the remaining 102 international unions which remain true to the policies and traditions of the American Federation of Labor.

A. F. of L. Cannot Be Destroyed

"The American Federation of Labor is grounded firmly and deeply in the hearts and affections of those who constitute its membership. It possesses a wealth of tradition and a background of achievement acquired through more than half a century of growth and service. It cannot and will not be destroyed. Its stength and permanency is reflected in the devotion and loyalty of its millions of members and friends. I predict that it will emerge from the experience through which it is now passing with its prestige increased and its economic influence unimpaired."

Strong Defense of Constitutional Democracy Is Advocated by Draper

President of Canadian Trades and Labor Congress Holds That Dictatorships Scuttle Human Rights—Urges Unions to Strengthen Liberty Now Enjoyed.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The intelligent application of the principles of free representative government instead of the destructive policy of dictatorships was urged as the proper method to secure justice for the workers by P. M. Draper, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, in his Labor Day Message issued from the headquarters of the Congress in Ottawa, Canada.

With the scourge of unemployment still afflicting thousands of Canadian working men and women, Mr. Draper believes that the same forces which have produced machines to deprive workers of jobs must develop means to restore them to productive activity.

Mr. Draper's message carried the title, "Labor and Constitutional Democracy." Following is the text:

Labor Day, 1936, comes at a time when conditions are still decidedly unsettled for the wage earners of Canada. There has been some improvement in employment, it is true, and one earnestly hopes that the trend upward may continue and increase in rapidity, if at all possible. The spirit with which Canadian workers have met their misfortunes of the '30's has been of the best, but after the severe testing it has had, surely it should be their lot to have some easing of their burden.

Unemployment Must Be Ended

Unemployment, underemployment and depression wage rates have too long held down the legitimate aspirations of the wage earners of our country, and their faith in the future deserves its reward without longer delay.

As the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has insisted for six years, there has been more complacency regarding unemployment than was good for our welfare. As a people we were too much inclined to think that things would right themselves and that there was nothing that we could do to aid in recovery except to carry on some public works and pay relief. Latterly we have experienced some change of feeling in the matter.

We have begun to see that we must aid recovery, and not be merely would-be onlookers. The setting up of the National Employment Commission by the Dominion, even if it only serves as evidence of a change in attitude in our approach to depression problems, is a fitting start.

The human ingenuity which has given us machines to throw men out of jobs must give us means to have our people put in the way of being able to earn their bread. With this change of public attitude, one must feel more hopeful of the immediate future.

But we cannot think only of conditions at home—for affairs abroad certainly influence our lives.

Democracy Preserves Liberty

Europe continues to set a mark in reaction which few thought possible a very few years ago, as country after country swings over to dictatorship. Human rights and civil liberties are wiped out, in favor of extreme state worship. Political rights, religious freedom and the rights of the workers are trampled under foot in nations where previous generations thought they had secured the right of man for all time to come.

In Canada, as in other parts of the English-speaking world, we have been happily free from these encroachments upon our liberty, but trade unionists above all should mark these happenings abroad.

Through their unions they should work for a continual strengthening of the lines of liberty we now enjoy. They should realize that liberty for their neighbor means liberty for them, and that they can not enjoy these rights they cherish unless others enjoy the same privileges.

In Canada the trade union movement has always supported constitutional democracy, and there is no better occasion than Labor Day for reiterating our convictions on the subject.

In conclusion, one may hope that another year will serve to correct some of our difficulties, and that when Labor Day returns once more the workers in whose interest the day is celebrated will, with braver hearts and freer minds, be able to face the future, that the anxiety of loss of employment, the severing of the life-line, so to speak, will have grown gradually less.

Unemployed Workers Number 1,613,940 in Great Britain

London, England.—Latest official returns reveal that in August 1,613,940 British workers were unemployed, the lowest figure in more than six years. The decrease from July was 38,132.

Excluding agricultural workers, insured persons employed totaled about 10,961,000, an increase of 66,000 over July.